

60130-1003
99MRA0015**REMARKS**

Applicant has amended claim 22 to overcome the Examiner's objection in the July 10, 2002 Office Action. Applicant requests that the Examiner consider this amendment.

Claims 1-13 and 19-22 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Spurr in view of Pettit. Claims 15-17 stand rejected as being obvious further in view of Cutler et al. There would be no benefit to employing the spliced laminate 10 of Pettit in the latch assembly 10 of Spurr. The latch assembly 10 of Spurr includes small parts, and there would be no motivation to increase the width of the parts of the latch assembly 10 of Spurr with the width increasing laminate 10 of Pettit. Additionally, the laminate 10 of Pettit is a complex material used in aerospace applications, which would be expensive. There would be no reason to employ the complex expensive laminate 10 of Pettit in the latch assembly 10 of Spurr. The laminate 10 of Cutler is also a complex laminate. There would be no benefit to providing this high temperature complex laminate in the combination of Spurr and Pettit.

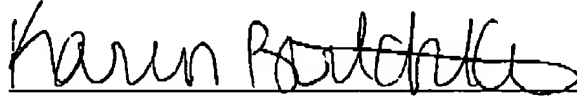
Additionally, the claw 12 and the pawl 16 of Spurr withstand side impacts when contacting each other. As the laminate 10 of Pettit is used in aerospace applications of increased width, the laminate 10 of Pettit is not designed to withstand side impacts as would occur with the small parts of the latch mechanism of Spurr.

Claim 22 is further not obvious. Applicant's claim 22 requires at least one of the latch bolt and the pawl is made from a plurality of laminations, and a profile of one of the laminations is different from a profile of the other laminations. Pettit does not disclose that the metal plies 12 have different profiles as required by Applicant's claim 22.

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Thus, claims 1-22 are in condition for allowance. Applicant has filed a Notice of Appeal herewith. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for the \$320.00 Notice of Appeal fee. No additional fees are due. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account 50-1482 for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,


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Dated: October 9, 2002

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, TC3600, After Final, 703-872-9327 on October 9, 2002.



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APPENDIX A
Claims

(Version With Markings to Show Changes Made)

22. (AMENDED) A vehicle door latch mechanism for releasably retaining a door comprising:

a latch bolt having a closed condition capable of retaining a striker and an open condition capable of releasing said striker; and

a pawl releasably securing said latch bolt in said closed condition, and at least one of said latch bolt and said pawl is made from a plurality of structural [plurality of] laminations of material wherein a profile of one of said plurality of laminations is different from a profile of the other of said plurality of laminations.